



Lorenzo Thomas Dow Yoder

Eley D. Brooks, compiler

2011

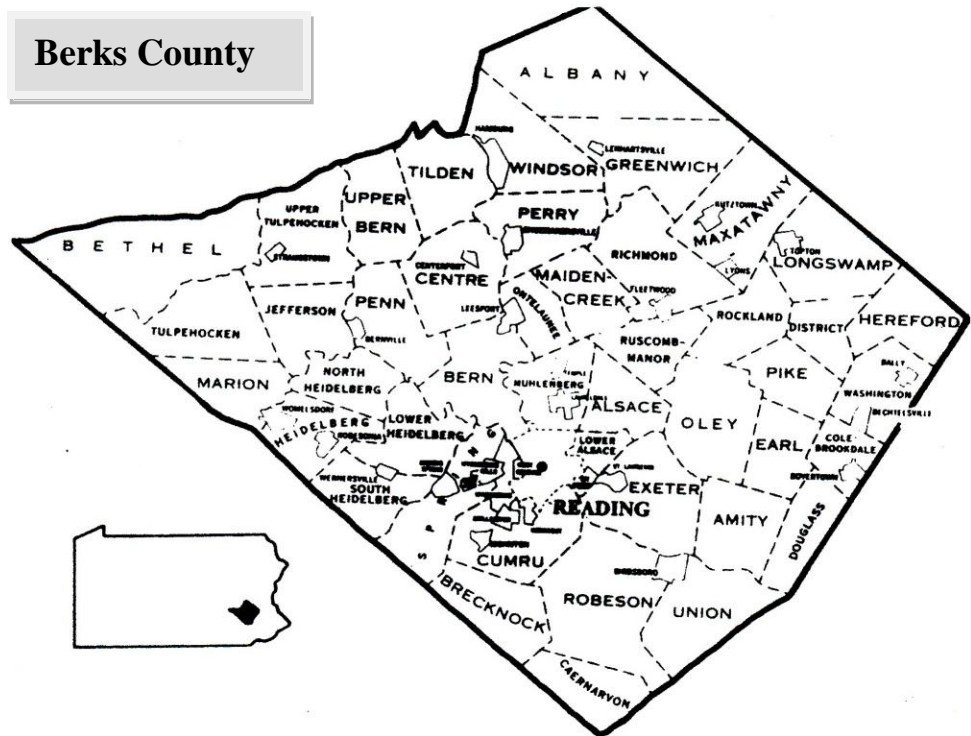
THE OLEY VALLEY YODERS OF PENNSYLVANIA
Including a Biography of Lorenzo Thomas Yoder

1847 - 1926

The Yoder families of Pennsylvania are of Swiss origin, many of whom were residents of Steffisburg, Switzerland and surrounding areas. There were, and are, others of the Yoder name in Switzerland but they are not related to this particular family branch. The Yoders who established themselves in America represented three separate but closely related groups - Reformed, Mennonite and Amish. Many were known as "Anabaptists" because they did not agree with the Swiss church's insistence on infant baptism, and so were fined and castigated for this. Thus, they felt they must immigrate to other countries and places to escape religious persecution. The name appears in a variety of spellings - "Jotter" being the preferred spelling in Switzerland and "Yoder" in America. (It also can appear as "Jotter", "Yotter", "Jetter", "Youter" etc.) All Pennsylvania Yoders can claim a relationship to each other, regardless of whether Reformed, Mennonite or Amish. It is a very large family and numerous offshoots are to be found in Central New York, the Carolinas, the Appalachians and the Midwest.

The Oley Valley Yoders established themselves in Pennsylvania under the William Penn Act before the territory officially became a state. The original immigrant to Pennsylvania was Jost or Yost Yoder who settled on the Nanatawny Creek, near where Pleasantville is now situated, in the Oley Valley of Oley Township, in the Reading area of Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was one of three brothers who left Switzerland. One settled in South Carolina and one in Ohio. The descendants of Jost have ever since been identified as "the Oley Valley Yoders". The ancient burial place of the Yoders is at Pleasantville - called by the German speakers, "Yotterstettle" - which forms the extreme eastern end of Union Cemetery. Because of the steep terrains and abundance of water in Switzerland, many of the family operated mills of various kinds and so it was natural that

their descendants would do the same. The Yoder properties in the Oley Valley and elsewhere in the Allegheny Mountains had an abundance of water power and milling was a logical way to



earn a living - grist mills, saw mills, fulling mills and paper mills.

Yost Yoder01, the immigrant, is remembered in Pennsylvania legend as a mighty hunter and trapper. He is said to have made hunting excursions in and beyond the Blue Mountains of the Alleghenys in what was then Indian country - and is now Schuylkill County. Friendly Indians still lived in the Oley Valley when the first families arrived. Several of the second-generation Yoders learned and could speak Delaware language. Many of Yost's family were rough and ready frontiersmen, so much so that an old description of such a person was "someone like Yost/Hans". Yost Yoder made his will 29 May 1741 and, since he could not write, made his mark. The will is on record in the Philadelphia Archives. Yost Yoder and his descendants were of the Reformed persuasion. In generational order, they were: Yost Yoder01, 1679-1741; Jacob Yoder02, 1735-1803; Peter Yoder03, 1769-1817; Daniel Yoder04, 1789-1871; Charles Thomas Yoder05, 1815-1851; Lorenzo Thomas Yoder06, 1847-1926; and Elcy Kennedy Yoder07, 1904-1974.

Jacob Yoder02 was born in 1735 in Berks County. He was just seven years of age at the death of his father. He married Maria (Keim), the daughter of Johannes Keim, a Huguenot. At the age of 22, he enlisted in the Provincial Service of Pennsylvania where he was a saddler for three years in Captain John Nicholas Weatherholt's Company which was stationed in Heidelberg Township, Northampton County, PA. He later served in the American Revolution as a private in Peter Nagle's Company and later in Captain Charles Gobins' militia. He was part of a detachment of the Sixth Battalion whose orders were to guard prisoners of war from the Hessian camp on its march from Reading to Philadelphia. Jacob and Maria were prosperous farmers, owning 74 acres of land in 1767. By 1768 he owned 160 acres, 2 horses, 5 cattle and 3 sheep. Sixteen years later he owned 200 acres, 4 horses, 8 cows and 11 sheep. He died in 1803, naming twelve children in his will.

Peter Yoder03 was born in Berks County and married Anna (Oyster) in 1784. He died intestate in 1818, leaving eight children and a farm of 156 acres in Pike Township, Berks County, PA.

Daniel Yoder04 was also born in Berks County and married Mary (LaRosa) in 1815. They removed to a farm near Orwigsburg, Skuylkill County, PA in 1825. The family moved again in 1850 to Pottsville, Pennsylvania where he died in 1871. His will is dated 1866 and names seven children.

Charles Thomas Yoder05 was born in Schuylkill County, PA, the eldest of four brothers and three sisters. He was trained as a watchmaker and engraver and, with patience and persistence, he established a reputation for highly skilled work. About 1830, wishing to start his own business in a new location, he left Schuylkill County, crossing the Allegheny Mountains by wagon - the trip taking about a week - and settled in the growing city of Pittsburgh at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. Here he was married to Ann Elizabeth (Kennedy) in 1842 by the Reverend Mr. Brown in the Smithfield Street Methodist Church. She was the daughter of Thomas Kennedy Sr. The Kennedy family was descended from an old and genteel line of landowners and noted

warriors - the American progenitor being Thomas Kennedy Sr. who came to America from Scotland in 1804 and established a looking glass and mirror factory in Baltimore, Maryland. It was here that Ann Elizabeth was born. As a little girl, she traveled across the Allegheny Mountains on what was then called the National Pike (old Route 40 today) in a Conestoga wagon, drawn by two horses, and accompanied by her father and her older brother, Thomas Kennedy Jr. In the words of her son, Lorenzo, "they came by way of Brownsville where her father had some notion of locating.

Charles Thomas Yoder



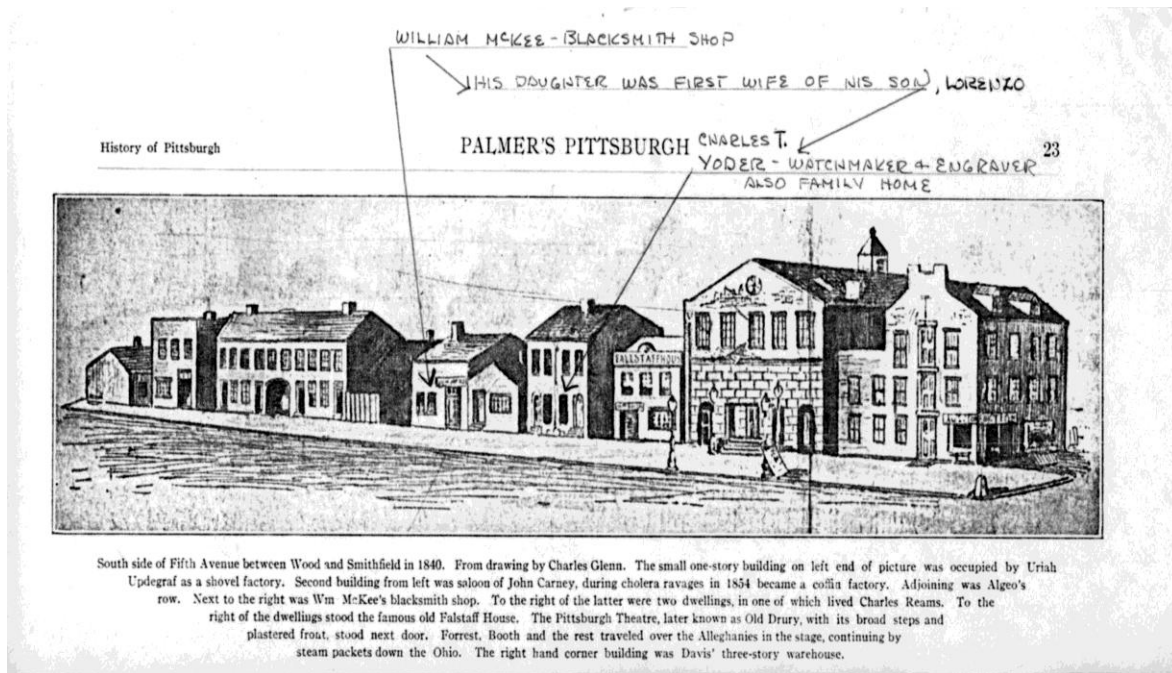
Standing: Charles & Hamilton
Seated: Francis, Ann Elizabeth &
Lorenzo



but looking over the town and location,
he concluded to go on to Pittsburgh.

Grandfather Kennedy had great regard
and high esteem for his family and was

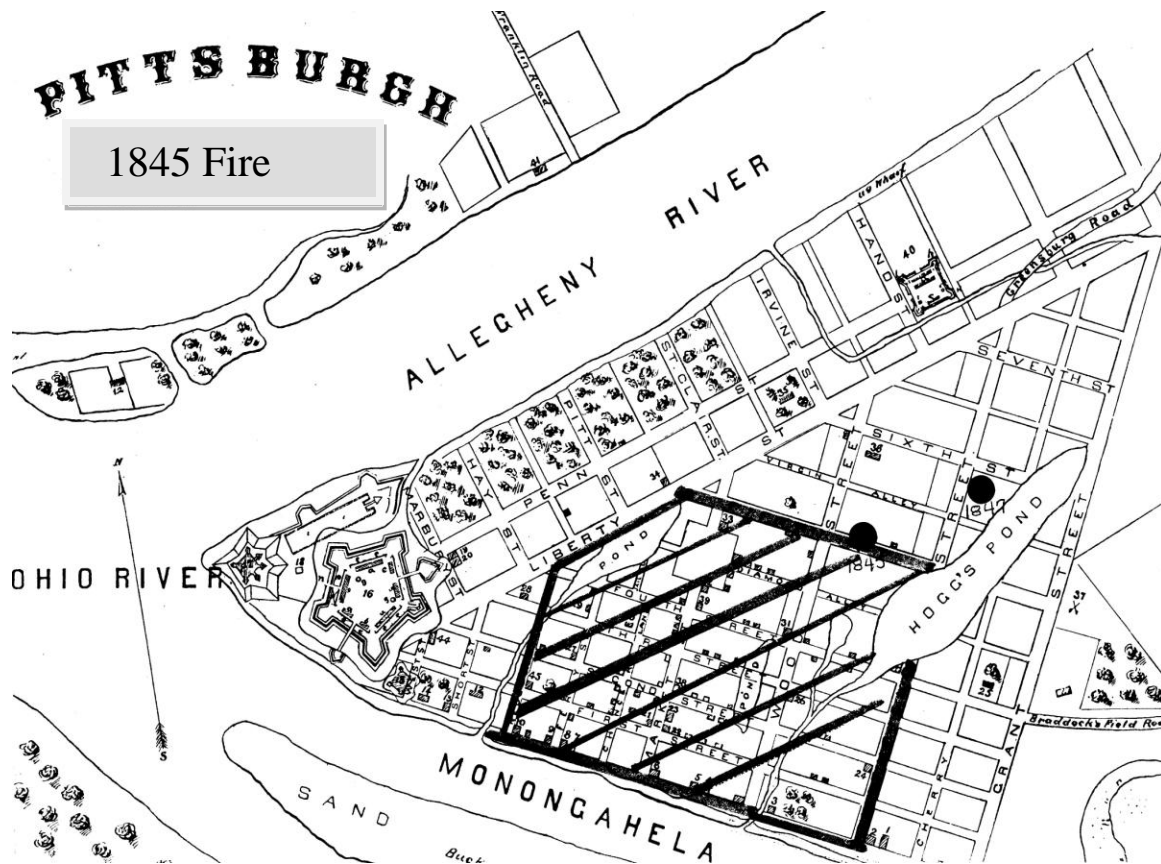
very particular as to the company they should associate with, and he made some objections to Father when he commenced paying attention to Mother - thinking Father was not good enough for his daughter Ann, as he called her. But true love stops for no object in the way - as greater the difficulty, the more determined to marry - so they were married and all objection ceased,". (Thomas Kennedy Sr died in 1865.) Four children were born to Charles and Ann Elizabeth: Charles Theodore Yoder 1843 - 1915; Hamilton Wright Yoder 1844-1876; Lorenzo Thomas Yoder 1847-1926; and Frances Ann 1850-1912. For about ten years Charles worked to establish his reputation. He had all the work he could do, not only from those who visited his shop, but from other jewelers who were obliged to bring their delicate work to him for his skilled abilities.



His first location was in a two-story log structure on Fifth Avenue, between Wood and Smithfield Streets. The building was veneered with weathered boards, providing a shop in which to work on the first level with adequate family living quarters on the floor above.

The site was considered, at the time, to be the central business district of the city. The family lived happily and comfortably enough, although the business increased so much that Charles was compelled to work longer and longer hours with little or no exercise. His son, Lorenzo, writing a biography in later years, described his father as a “good provider who worked long hours”. The only open air exercise his father had was “going to the old Market on Wood Street where he would procure a basketful of eatables, with quite a large fish strung on the outside of the basket”.

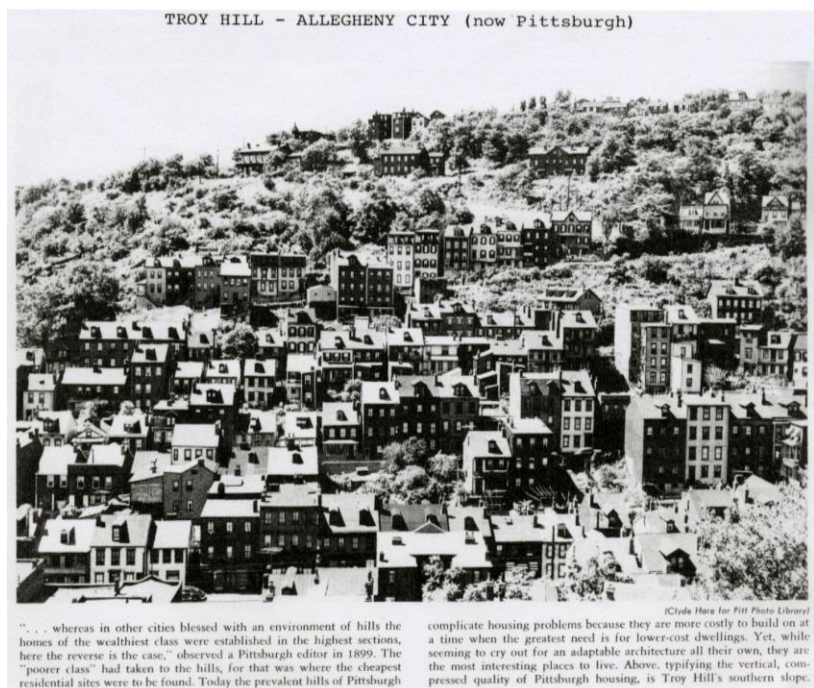
In 1845 a catastrophic fire occurred in Pittsburgh, destroying nearly half the town including their home and engraving business. Survivors had no place to put their rescued belongings and furniture except a vacant square - the only place of safety. Here the citizens piled their belongings, waiting nearly a year before a proper separation was made. Charles and his family moved themselves and their business to the corner of Sixth Avenue and Smithfield Street - just a short distance away from their first home.



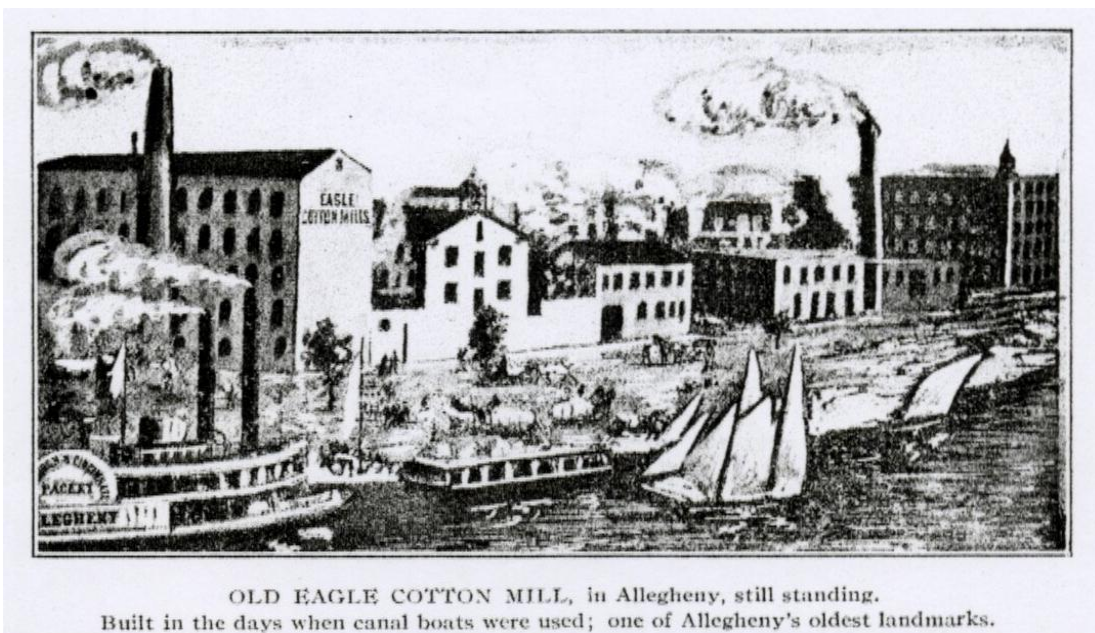
The holocaust began around noon on 10 April 1845 in the ice house of Colonel William Diehl. It was believed that it started after a washerwoman lit a fire for her laundry in a woodshed adjoining Colonel Diehl's residence. Soon the bells of the Third Presbyterian Church sounded the alarm, but by then the wind had already taken the flames eastward and building after wooden building were crackling and burning. "A pretty strong wind was blowing from the west," wrote Attorney Robert McKnight in his diary, "and some alarm existed as to the spread of the flames. I mounted an engine and labored with might and main but unfortunately the supply of water failed!" There was confusion everywhere, noted the diarist, "drays, carts, furniture, horses and men were running in all directions". The fire moved from block to block devastating all in its path. Businessmen inside the fire area worked in a frantic effort to move their stock of goods out of their stores and to places of safety. Those who were able carted their belongings to the bank of the Monongahela River, which "became piled up with an enormous and indescribable mass of

matter". At last, when the flames burned themselves out, the area between Ferry Street, Diamond Alley and Water Street on the Monongahela side, as far as the present Tenth Street Bridge, was devastated. More than 50 acres had become prey of the flames. Some estimates of the loss ran as high as nine million dollars. The *Pittsburgh Gazette's* reporter wrote: "Nothing was spared - very little saved. The progress of the fire as it lanced and leaped with its forked tongue from house to house, from block to block, and from square to square was awfully magnificent".

Sadly, the long hours at his workbench and his sedentary habits, coupled with the stress of the fire, brought on the first of a series of incapacitating paralytic strokes in 1849. Charles was never able to work again and from that time until his death in 1851, the family suffered financially - depleting their savings completely. In the meantime, Ann Elizabeth found work as a seamstress, supporting her invalided husband and four children as best she could. At the death of Charles they were left in a penniless condition. No longer able to pay the rent on their home, she sought another less expensive place in which to live. After some days, she found a four room frame house on Troy Hill in Allegheny City, just across the river from Pittsburgh. Here the three boys attended school and Elizabeth took baby Frances Ann to work with her each day, walking back into Pittsburgh to her work as a seamstress. She returned in the evenings, climbing



back up Troy Hill, to cook supper for the children - a tired and discouraged mother. She cared deeply for her children, counseling them and teaching them love of each other, of their fellow-man and of God. The boys adored their courageous, generous Mother. As Lorenzo wrote in his brief autobiography: "I am sure that no two persons could have enjoyed each other's society more than did Mother and I, from the first time we became acquainted. I will admit that there were smacks once in a while that disturbed our peace, but our love was the stronger after it was all over.....". After several years, Ann Elizabeth realized that being a seamstress was not providing adequately for her little family and decided to go into business for herself. She and her children moved once more - this time to Sandusky Street, between Lacock and Robinson Streets on the Allegheny River. The edifice was a two story frame building containing three rooms above, and a store front below. It was located across the street from the Eagle Cotton Mill. Charles Theodore about ten, Hamilton nine and Lorenzo six were placed in the Fourth Ward School on Sandusky Street. Ann Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Kennedy, had a profitable business selling notions at the corner of Wood Street and Third Avenue, and he agreed to supply his sister with merchandise for her little store. Stocked with a supply of notions, candy and other small wares, she sold the items to the girls working at the mill. The Eagle Cotton Mill employed about three hundred girls, called "Cotton Bumpers." They had a great habit



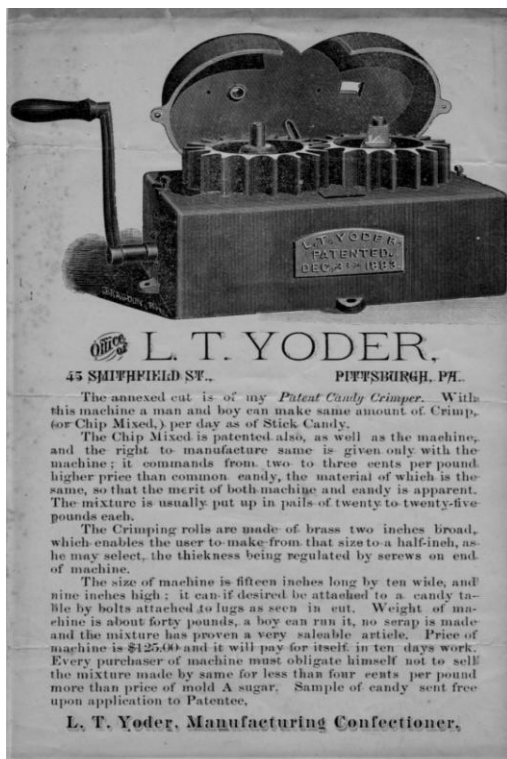
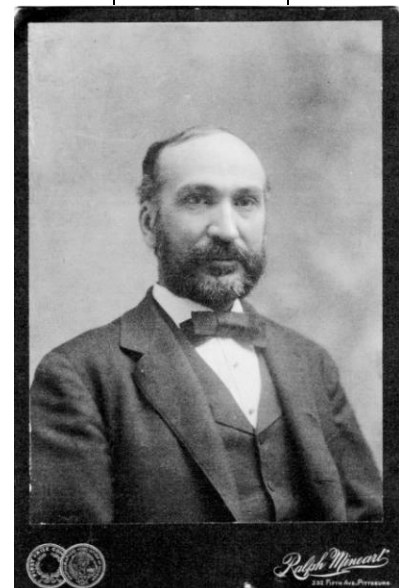
of rubbing snuff, which gave Ann Elizabeth quite a trade in this article. She purchased it by the bladder and sold it by the spoon. The Penn Cotton Mill was just a block away, employing about as many girls as the Eagle Mill, which added to the snuff demand. Using her skills as a seamstress, Ann Elizabeth stocked her shop with children's clothes as well as aprons for the girls and men working in the mill. She also made all kinds of taffy which attracted passersby and children on their way to school. One of Lorenzo's chores was shelling peanuts for the "pan taffy". In his words, "I would slip a kernel or two in my mouth on the sly and they would taste good. Mother would let us children scrape the taffy pot. This was a greatly enjoyed treat and was sweet to our taste". Somehow the family survived, despite unforeseen troubles which included another fire and the river which flooded frequently. Each boy did his part helping out in the shop when they were not in school, but their mother was adamant that an education came first. Thankfully, they were again somewhat financially safe and able to cope with daily surprises and disasters. Living so near the river which was prone to flood in the spring was a problem. As Lorenzo described it, "The Allegheny River rose until the waters surrounded our house and we carried all the material from the store and kitchen to the upper floor. We were penned in for some days until the water subsided, but it left the cellar full of water and there was mud and sand all over the first floor. In time, we scraped and cleaned and finally got back to our normal condition. By degrees, the cotton mills started to run - partially at first and then under a full head of steam."

Lorenzo, a youngster armed with boundless energy and ambition, had a talent for inventiveness. In order to help his mother financially and with a necessarily limited education, (he dropped out of school in the Fifth Grade) Lorenzo did his best to make a living outside of his chores at home. His first job outside of the shop in 1856 was that of errand boy for the Sheppard Baking Company on Liberty Street. His stipend was \$1.50 a week which was turned over promptly to his mother. At the age of 13, Lorenzo entered the employ of Reymer Brothers - a wholesale candy manufacturing company from

Philadelphia, who had established a profitable retail business in Pittsburgh. He became a traveling salesman for the firm, selling and delivering orders from a horse and wagon and thus proceeded to learn the candy business from manufacturing to delivery. Seeing the need for a wholesale candy business in Pittsburgh, his ambition was to rise in the company and make and save enough money for the time when he could start a business for himself. He became, over time, Reymer's best salesman, saving enough money that enabled him to do so in 1873 at age 26

Through the ability and energy of its founder, the L. T. Yoder Candy Company prospered inspite of a general financial depression in the country. He hired three salesmen who proved to be so successful that in 1889 he took them into partnership - E. J. Weaver, C. W. Costello and J. C. Patch. The re-organized company was known as the Yoder, Weaver & Costello Company. Undoubtedly the company's success was in no small measure a result of Lorenzo's invention of a ribbon candy machine which he patented in December 1883,

L. T. Yoder



#289,488. It consisted of a new improved and less expensive method of candy production since it required only one employee to operate. In his words: "I take the candy in its plastic state and 'spin' or form it into long, thin narrow strips, which are then bent sideways in alternate directions in planes at right angles to the length of the strip". He sold the machine all over the world, helping him to amass a considerable fortune. By 1891 his company was one of the strongest and largest

concerns of its kind in Pittsburgh, with a range of territory which covered Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia - its products being candy and confectionery. In addition to his invention, he formulated his own candy recipes, improving on his mother's taffy recipe, including one for horehound drops which were extremely popular as a cough remedy. Best of all, his mother no longer had to worry about the future of her family. The little shop near the Eagle Cotton Mill was a thing of the past. It was with the greatest pride and pleasure that Ann Elizabeth was able to see and participate in her son's achievements.

Ann Elizabeth (Kennedy) Yoder died in 1894. She and her husband, Charles Thomas Yoder, are buried in Allegheny Cemetery, Section 23, Lot 95 in Pittsburgh.

With new horizons to reach and boundless ambition, Lorenzo ultimately sold his candy manufacturing interest to two of his salesmen - Weaver and Costello - and devoted himself to real estate and financial matters. He organized and became president and chief owner of the Yoder Land Company which was capitalized at \$200,000. The company was occupied with the purchase of unimproved properties in various sections of a growing Pittsburgh, as well as the laying out of streets and the building and sale of houses. He was also principal owner of West Penn Gas Company, capitalized at \$275,000, which provided fuel to new and existing mills from Apollo to Tarentum in the Kiskiminitas and Allegheny River valleys. He served as president of the gas company Board of Directors for many years. It was during this time that he built as his permanent residence, a large home at 1232 Murray Hill Avenue where he raised his children. The edifice was of his own design, containing thirteen rooms, including two baths (one tiled), a conservatory, a library, a nursery, and hot water heat.



1232 Murry Hill Avenue

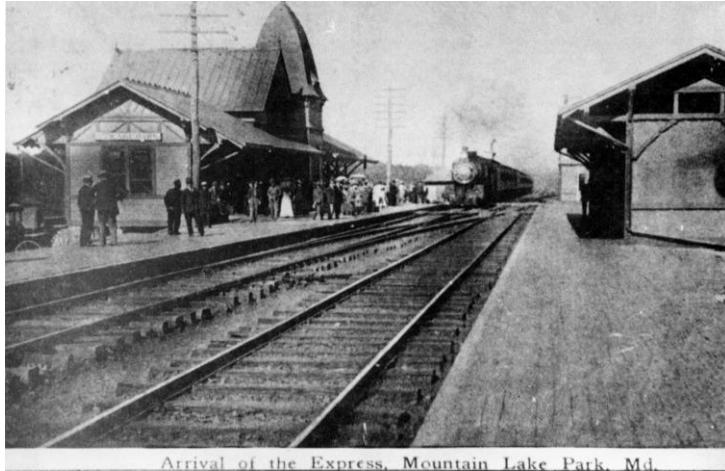
Lorenzo's business acumen was only part of his life's endeavors. He was a practicing humanitarian and genuine Christian, endowing all he did with the essence of true religion. As a staunch advocate of prohibition, in 1876 he aided in the fight which led to passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 1917. It was both his desire to further this movement and a devastating depression which led him to purchase ground at 1112 Forbes Avenue in Pittsburgh and erect the four hundred room Yoder Hotel: "For men Only-No Liquors Sold on the Premises – Single Room \$1.50 Per Week". was fireproof and easily adapted for change into an office building. The prices of from twenty-five cents to one dollar and a half indicate the plan on which the hotel was run - good clean, wholesome living service, without the temptations of liquor - to provide, in a time of economic depression, out-of-work men who needed decent living conditions to put them on their feet and give them a fresh start. His last twenty years were devoted to this work. The hotel gained a reputation for welcoming all men and treating them humanely. Recalling his own impoverished beginnings, he would often come to the aid of his fellow man in unexpected ways. Lorenzo had the satisfaction in after-years of hearing from many a happy and prosperous man who said that both the physical and spiritual bolstering he received from Mr. Yoder, provided him the strength to make the hard fight to success. And there were others - the ill-shod newsboys who delivered his daily paper and came to collect for a week's delivery, were just as likely to depart with the price of a new pair of

shoes as well as the cost of the papers. He encouraged them to get a financial start in life by an offer to duplicate, at the end of each year, whatever amount the newsboy had saved in that year's time!

Personally, Lorenzo was a fiercely devout Methodist, rising from his seat during the service to shout "Amen, brother", when he felt strongly about the pastor's message - much to the embarrassment of his daughters. For many years, Lorenzo was a member of the Smithfield Methodist Episcopal Church where he taught Sunday School. Blue was his favorite color and he had a suit made of blue serge, but of a hue so bright that his wife made him return it, feeling it was not fit for a man of his position! He did not believe in card playing, nor would he permit a deck in his house, believing they were instruments of the devil. His daughters, as young women, were forced to invent "acceptable" social events when they were, in reality, going to a bridge tea. He did not believe women were ready for marriage until in their thirties, and was not pleased that his two eldest daughters married much before that age. He loved to sing and was possessed of a pleasant tenor voice.

On the other hand, he was not without his eccentricities. His one vice - if it could be called that - was billiards. He was obsessed by the game and, when he could afford it, he had a full-sized table installed - out of sight - in his attic, for he was not anxious that others should find out about this pastime! He had a favorite derby hat which he wore on nearly every occasion - and he had a passion for coconut meat. One very rainy day he was crossing a major street in Pittsburgh, with his hat on his head, an umbrella in one hand and a paper sack which contained a coconut in the other. A gust of wind threatened his hat and, not wishing to drop the umbrella, he threw up the hand which held the coconut - and knocked himself out in the middle of the street! He always carried a few bills of Confederate money in his wallet. One day he boarded a trolley car and discovered he had no other money with which to pay his fare. Fortunately, the trolley conductor recognized him as a passenger from many other trips and let him ride anyway! Outside of his personal home life, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a

charter member of the Oakland Lodge, No.530, Free and Accepted Masons where he participated in their good works. Another favorite project was the organization of the Home for Working Girls in Pittsburgh, which ultimately was absorbed by the Young Women's Christian Association. He was also a charter member and active aid in the management of the Industrial Home for Boys at Oakmont, Pennsylvania. In 1881 he participated, with four other like-minded men from Wheeling, West Virginia - all prominent Methodists - in the establishment of a Chautauqua-type resort in Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County, Maryland, to be conducted as a Methodist religious summer colony. The founders of Mountain Lake Park incorporated themselves in 1881 as the Mountain Lake Park Association and issued stock, initially fifteen shares at \$1,000. As investors in the Park they were firm in their resolve that their resort should have a high moral tone. The charter they drew up had restrictions against dancing, card-playing, drinking and gambling whether in public or private homes. These bans were written into the deeds for the sale of land in the Park and a violation of any of the bans could, in theory, lead to forfeiture of the property. Whatever the intent of the original developers, not all of the cottage owners maintained the desired level of sanctity. One cottage was reputedly a link in a moonshine distribution chain. Another was leased one winter by its unwitting owner to bootleggers who allowed the residue from their labors go down the drain and into the river. Their presence was discovered when some cows in a down-stream meadow were discovered upside down and drunk! Further, a madam from Baltimore brought her girls to the Park for several summers until their activities were uncovered and stopped. Finally, at Lorenzo's insistence, these bans were modified after a letter written to his fellow stockholders in which he said: "A great many good Christian people are averse to building and living in a community with such rigid laws.....if we expect to see the Park grow, we must have the laws so framed that they will meet the reasonable wishes of the people. I am not in favor of any radical change but no doubt some of the rules stand in the way of the growth of the Park".



Arrival of the Express, Mountain Lake Park, Md.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad which served the area daily brought mail, freight and passengers. The Park was placed on the Chautauqua Lecture Circuit which drew many to the resort needing accommodations. In 1892, in

recognition of the increase in summer population, Lorenzo purchased land and built the Mountain Lake Park Hotel. In addition he purchased several "cottages" (there were no "cabins") including one of his own. The cottage was built in 1885 and still stands on "I"

Street immediately across from where the hotel once stood (The Hotel was sold in 1914 and ultimately torn down). This ample cottage was Victorian in style and contained a living room and formal dining room, a music room, 4 bedrooms, a full bathroom, and both a winter and a summer kitchen. It comfortably housed his wife,



MT. LAKE PARK HOTEL, MT. LAKE PARK, MD.

children and assorted maiden aunts and guests in the summer. The family traveled by horse and buggy from Pittsburgh, some one hundred and ten miles south to Mountain Lake Park, crossing the Allegheny foothills and Summit Mountain near Uniontown, PA. In later years, his daughter Elcy recalled walking up Summit Mountain with her sister Elizabeth in order to spare the horses a long haul with a full load.

L to R Elizabeth, Hillis, Elcy



Front



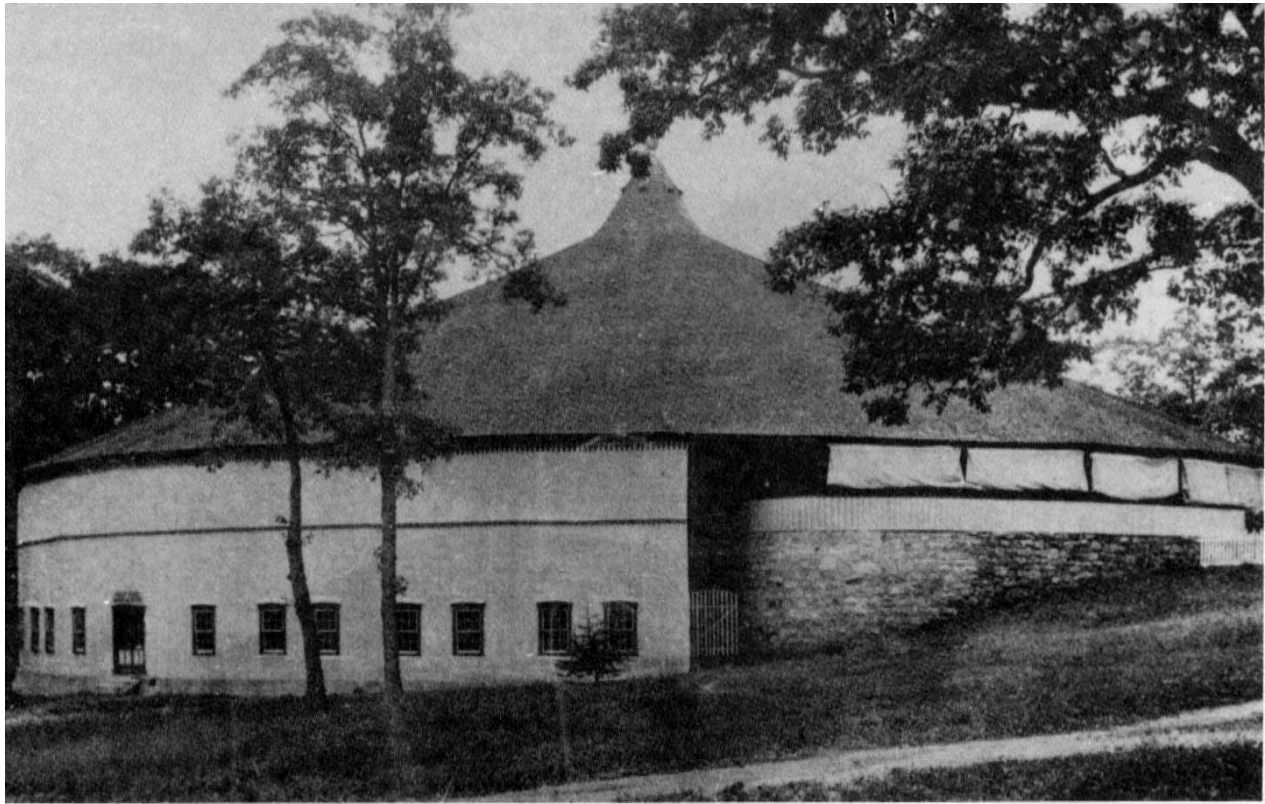
Rear

Original Cottage



Current Cottage

The Cottage On "I" Street, Mt Lake



The Amphitheatre, Mt. Lake Park

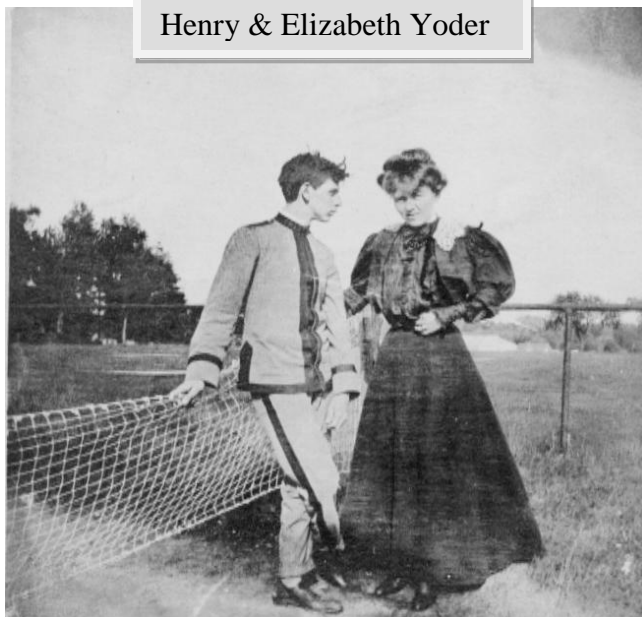
Recognizing the need for a stage venue, the stockholders built an enclosed amphitheater which provided a place for summer residents and visitors to partake of the Chautauqua circuit speakers and performers in any kind of weather. With the ease of transportation by rail, many families purchased and/or built summer cottages in the immediate area to enjoy the mountain climate in an uplifting, educational and moral family atmosphere.

Cottage construction boomed and seeing a need for those who owned cottages, he established the Mountain Lake Water and Light Company which consisted of 122 mountain acres containing 5 springs, 3 reservoirs, a pumping station and pipe lines that piped pure spring water from the surrounding mountains into the town. The first pipes from "The Springs", as he called the water source, were of wood held together with metal bands which carried the water from a small reservoir. Some of these wooden pipes were found as late as the 1960's. Lorenzo ran the water company from an office in his carriage house. He advocated macadamizing the streets and putting a fireplug at every important corner. True to his entrepreneurial spirit, Lorenzo, in partnership with Samuel W.

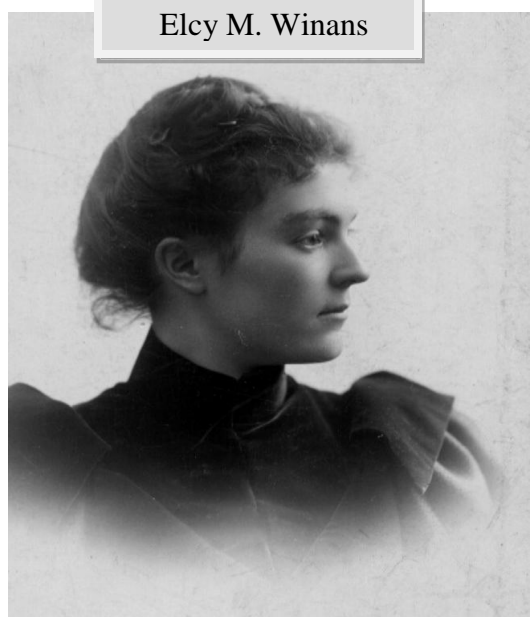
Vandersaal, purchased a great deal of land on a small river called Deep Creek in Garrett County, Maryland near the Park. Their principal interest in the beginning was coal mining. But times were changing and Pennsylvania Electric Company decided to build a dam on the creek which would supply electricity to small towns below the dam. Thus, Deep Creek Lake was formed, making the former coal property into lake front property - a much more lucrative investment than coal and near enough to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. to be a resort and tourist destination. Through the years much of the land was sold for summer homes and to businesses that supported the tourist industry. A large piece of the "coal" land which was away from the lake shore, was donated to the state of Maryland and became, in part, Swallow Falls State Park.

Lorenzo T. Yoder was married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth McKee whom he married on 13 May 1870. She was the daughter of William McKee who had a blacksmith shop just two doors from the watch shop of Lorenzo's father on Fifth Avenue. (See illustration on page 6) The couple had five children between 1870 and 1878, the first three of whom died within days of each other of diphtheria. Of the two surviving children, Bessie Mae was the eldest who ultimately married James H. Opie and moved to Chicago, Illinois. The youngest child was Henry Francis Yoder who attended Staunton Military

Henry & Elizabeth Yoder



Elcy M. Winans



Academy in Virginia. He died at age 21 in 1899 of a congenital heart defect. Their mother, Elizabeth (McKee) Yoder, developed a virulent form of diabetes, suffering all the effects of that disease in a day when there was no known help for it. Her sight began to fail and she ultimately became completely blind and physically incapacitated. Needing a companion and helper for his wife, Lorenzo employed a young woman from New Brighton, PA to live with his family and to fill this capacity. Elcy Myers Winans was about 26 years of age at the time. She was born in New Brighton, Beaver County, PA - the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Cannon) Winans. Her father was employed by the federal government revenue service. Ultimately, the diabetes took its toll and Elizabeth Yoder died about 1898.

About 1901, Elcy M. Winans became Lorenzo's second wife. They had three children: Elizabeth Ann born in 1904, who became the wife of Harold F. Stockslager; Elcy Kennedy born in 1905 and married James H. Donovan; and Hillis Sutherland born in 1906 and who never married.

Lorenzo Thomas Yoder died 20 February 1926, allowed by an all-wise providence a total of seventy nine years to perform for humanity all the good he aspired to. Having amply provided for his wife and her welfare, he passed away as he had entered life - penniless and without personal assets. Generosity, wisdom and inventiveness were in his nature, resulting in novel and effective methods of helping his fellow-man. Early in life he learned for himself the good and the true in life and his fellow man, and his whole career was devoted to furthering such universal truths as the Christian religion and brotherly love.

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Charles Theodore Yoder, Lorenzo's eldest brother, was born in 1843. At age 16 he was hired to teach in a rural school in Crab Tree, Westmoreland County, PA. He lived at the Torrence farm in Crab Tree and helped out with farm chores in lieu of room and board - not unusual for a rural school teacher. Elizabeth Torrence was a widow with five daughters who depended on her brother and a hired hand to help run her farm. Charles

taught in Crab Tree for about three years, leaving in the Fall of 1861 to join the Union Army. He enlisted as a private in Company C. of the 4th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry on 26 August 1861 at Latrobe, Westmoreland County, PA. He was mustered into the Union Army in September of the same year. When he later applied for a pension, he described himself, at the time, as being: "Height 5 ft. 6 in.; Complexion, fair; Color of eyes, hazel; Color of hair, brown". He took part in 77 battles and skirmishes from June 1862 through October 1864, achieving the rank of Major from Abraham Lincoln, 11 March 1864. He later became Brigadier General and had the distinction of being the highest ranking Yoder in the Army. Charles made Washington, D. C. his permanent residence where he was a successful lawyer. He was twice married - first to Annie E. Warder who died in 1876; and second to Emma L. Berry. His children were Edith May, 1878, William B., 1880 and Frank W., 1883. Charles died at his home on 30 September 1915 at the age of 72. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

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Hamilton Wright Yoder, Lorenzo's elder brother, was born in 1844. He married Mary Lewis in 1866. He died an untimely and painful death in 1876 at the age of 32 of a strangulated hernia. At the time of his death, Hamilton and his wife, Mary, lived on Gum Street in Allegheny City, PA. They had two children: William Hamilton born in 1867 and Frances Ann born in 1870. She was named for her father's youngest sister, Frances Ann.

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Frances Ann Yoder, Lorenzo's little sister, was born in 1850 and died in Pittsburgh about 1912. (Little further information has been found.)

SOURCES

Palmer's Pictorial Pittsburgh and Prominent Pittsburghers 1758 to 1905

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Once Upon a Mountaintop - Improbable History of Mt. Lake Park, MD

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